

# ISSANJI HARTFORD STREET ZEN CENTER

57 HARTFORD STREET (ONE BLOCK EAST OF CASTRO STREET BETWEEN 17TH AND 18TH) SAN FRANCISCO,  
CALIFORNIA 94114 TELEPHONE: (415) 863-2507

## REGULAR SCHEDULE:

Please be on your cushion before Zazen start time.

## MORNINGS:

Monday through Friday, Zazen Meditation - 5:00 to 5:40 a.m.; Kinhin (walking meditation) - 5:40 to 5:50, Zazen - 5:50 to 6:30; Service - 6:30.

Meditation Instruction and Introduction to Practice for Beginners: At the temple every Monday at 5 p.m. with Jerome.

On the sixth of each month at 6:40 a.m. there is a Memorial Service for Temple Founder, Issan Dorsey Roshi.

## EVENINGS:

Monday through Friday, Zazen 6:00 to 6:40 p.m.. Service - 6:40 to 7:00 p.m..

## WEEKENDS AND SPECIAL EVENTS:

Saturday Mornings - informal Zazen 9:10 to 10:00, Dharma talk 10:00 a.m..

First Saturday of each month - All day sitting (\$15 sangha members, \$20 others - sign up list on bulletin board next to Zendo entrance - sign up by the Wednesday before, please). (May 1st, June 5th, July 3rd, Aug. 7th).

Starting Tuesday May 18th at 7:30 p.m., Jerome will begin a weekly class in "Basic Doctrines of Mahayana Buddhism." (\$25 members/ \$35 non-members)

ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED AND NEWCOMERS WELCOME TO ATTEND A SHORT WORKSHOP AND REFRESHER COURSE IN MEDITATION HALL PRACTICES:

Saturday, May 29th from 9 to 10 a.m. at HSZC. Dharma talk will follow at 10 am.

## **ABOUT HARTFORD STREET ZEN CENTER**

HSZC is a Zen Temple, the temple name of which is Issanji ("One Mountain Temple") in honor of its founder, Issan Dorsey Roshi, a Zen priest and gay man who started the center so that lesbians and gay men would have a comfortable place to practice Zen Buddhism. The center is independent and open to all people of all orientations and affiliations as a place to meditate and practice together. Hartford Street Zen Center operates in tandem with the Maitri Hospice, a home-like AIDS hospice established by Issan before his own death from AIDS in 1990. Issanji has a traditional Zendo (meditation hall), a well-stocked Buddhist library, a large garden, a bulletin board that serves as a clearing house for many Buddhist and other events, a living room area for tea and socializing and a kitchen. Because the kitchen is used primarily for the hospice, Issanji is not vegetarian, as are most Zen temples. There is one priest in residence, Abbott Zenshin {Philip} Whalen. Other priests and laypeople take part in the life of the temple and the hospice. We welcome anyone who would like to come by and see the temple or learn Zazen (Zen meditation). Please call the number on this newsletter and let Jerome know if you want to come by for the introduction session given on Mondays at 5 pm, or set up an appointment.



## SANGHA NEWS

### ABBOT ZENSHIN RECOVERING FROM HEART SURGERY

In February, Philip went traipsing off to Mt. Zion Hospital to find out just what was going on in that heart of his. After an angioplasty, it was determined that some valves would have to be replaced. And so they were. Philip has been resting in his quarters since then. He is doing well and looking very good. Although he has been getting out for exercise, and recently made it to his first board meeting upstairs in a while, he has not been able to physically resume his duties as abbot, so Jerome Petersen is filling in for him in the meantime as "interim abbot." Phil, however, is seeing visitors. Visitors bearing gifts. Give a call if you want to come down.

LATE BREAKING NEWS: Phil has returned to the Zendo!

### ISSANJI AND MAITRI HOSPICE SEPARATE AMICABLY

The February 26th board meeting, open to all members, introduced the membership to some interesting developments. HSZC/Maitri were on the verge of obtaining a weighty grant that would allow us to buy outright the house at 61 Hartford St. - the house that now includes the better part of Maitri Hospice. This purchase would provide not only additional peace of mind, but would free up a good part of the income we now spend on rent.

There was one hitch, however: the grant could not be awarded to a religious organization. Since Maitri has never been overtly "religious" but exists for the benefit of its multid denominational and multicultural residents, officially "divesting" Maitri from the control of HSZC did not seem like such a great leap.

There were several ways legally to separate the two organizations so that they could run parallel but interrelated lives. These various ways were explained to the membership in layperson's terms by our pro bono attorney, Bill Aselyne, at the February 26th sangha meeting. The outcome of the meeting was that the membership unanimously agreed that Maitri should separate from HSZC and become a non-religious "public benefit corporation." HSZC/Issanji would remain a religious organization.

The two organizations will have separate boards, with Maitri's board drawing from the various resources of the community at large, and the smaller HSZC board drawn mainly from the sangha. The Abbot will remain the Head of the HSZC board and the "big cheese" (as he likes to say) of the whole operation. The HSZC board will oversee the Maitri board in any major decisions, and the organizations will have separate by-laws and charters enumerating their purposes.

This set-up is similar to the position of a Catholic hospital. The hospital itself (St. Luke's for instance) is a public benefit corporation that treats patients of all denominations in its halls. The doctors and nurses do not have to be priest or monks or even Catholic (Episcopal in this instance). However, the hospital is run under the auspices of a religious organization. It all gets kind of complicated, so I won't go into more detail.

What you do want to know, however, is that this is an exciting time for all of us. With the missions of both organizations clearly delineated and their spheres of influence defined, each will get the energy and financial assistance it needs to do more than it has previously been able to do. This is especially true, we hope, for the Zen Center. This last year has brought a resurgence of new members and energy, and WE WELCOME YOUR MEMBERSHIP!



## HSZC BOARD VOTED IN AND OFFICERS ELECTED

To continue our above story, according to the new by-laws an HSZC board was chosen by the membership at the March 26th membership/board meeting. The following members were unanimously voted in, and the officers were chosen from among themselves by the newly elected board:

PHILIP ZENSHIN WHALEN, Abbot (Permanent Position)  
JEROME PETERSEN, President  
MIKE HOUN GALLAGHER, Secretary  
WILL SPRIETSMA, Treasurer  
MARTY KIDWELL  
JENNIFER BIRKETT  
BOB EBERT  
BRIT PYLAND  
ANANDA DALENBERG

Congratulations and good luck!

## MEMBERSHIP

Becoming a practicing member of HSZC requires two things: sitting Zazen regularly and making an appointment to visit with Abbot Zenshin Philip Whalen. Members are encouraged, if able, to pay dues so that we can keep the center running smoothly and effect any repairs that need to be made to the old victorians.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, EVENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS !

✓ There is a Soji (Zendo cleaning) detail set up for Saturday, May 8th after lecture and tea (about 1 p.m.) - Jackie Weltman will gather tools and lead.

✓ Marty Kidwell and Perri Franskoviak are organizing the Zendo Committee. This committee will help organize Zendo maintenance, Doan (altar-person) training, and introductory sessions for new members and interested visitors. Be on the LOOKOUT for Zendo cleaning sign-up sheets - if members can give just an hour of time every week for no more than one month, we can show our gratitude for its existence.

✓ Jackie Weltman has volunteered to put together the Newsletter on a regular basis. The newsletter needs articles, ideas, guest columns, graphics, etc. If you would like to submit poetry, please feel welcome (lots of poets in this sangha) - leave a message for Jackie. She will also be reorganizing the lending and research Library. The library is open to donations of Buddhist books.

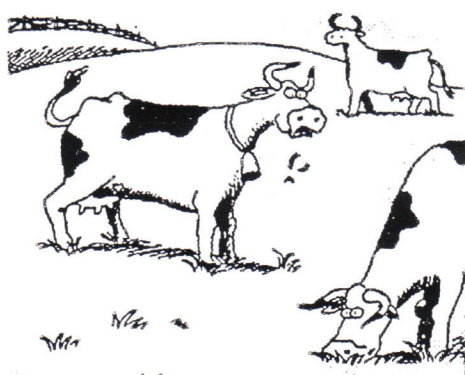
✓ Mike Houn Gallagher, Board Secretary, will begin advertising Saturday Morning Dharma Talks and special events in local papers. We have had guest lecturers and will continue to have them (feel free to suggest a lecturer to the Abbott) and we'd like people to know about it!

✓ The Garden really needs some dedicated volunteers to get it in shape and to donate drought resistant plants, etc. It's wide open! If you are into gardening, we can use your leadership for a regular, structured gardening detail. Remember, the garden elevates the atmosphere especially for hospice residents, many of whom enjoy volunteering in it. The garden

is a resting place, too, for the ashes of residents who have died, as well as for the late Abbott and founder, Issan Dorsey.

✓ **ORDINATIONS:** We are looking forward to the ordinations of the following members: HOUN MIKE GALLAGHER will be receiving priest ordination Sunday, June 6th. PATRICK GLENNON and FRANK MASSON will be taking Jukai, or lay ordination Sunday, May 23rd. The Abbot will be performing these ordinations and I think I speak for us all when I say we are very glad that he is feeling well enough to do so. More on these ordinations as the dates draw near.

✓ **BUDDHA DAY - SUNDAY, MAY 16th!** The Buddhist Council of Northern California sponsors "a gathering of the sanghas" on Sunday, May 16th from 2 to 4 p.m. at UC Berkeley (Dwinelle Hall 145 - near the Telegraph and Bancroft entrance). This is the holiday of Vesak - celebrating the birthday of Shakyamuni Buddha - with chanting meditation, refreshments and a keynote talk by Tenshin Anderson, Abbott of SF Zen Center. Someone told me that last year 600 people attended. HSZC will be attending with an information table. Let's go as a sangha!



Hey, wait a minute! This is grass! We've been eating grass!

## UNSUI-ON-THE-STREET \*\*

The travelling unsui, with robes, begging bowl and microphone, moseying from place to place, asking questions on Buddhist subjects...

This issue's question was got to by Tricycle in its last issue. But I didn't know this, so here we go.

### QUESTION:

What is the importance of vegetarianism in Buddhism?

### RESPONSES:

☞ "I was a strict vegetarian at one time; I'm not one now, and I might become a strict vegetarian in the future. I don't cook meat at home, but I may in the future. It allows us to be mindful of our relationship with other beings but the danger is that we can get attached to it."

☞ "I think it's very important. I eat meat. I don't eat much, but that's no excuse. I'm 6 feet tall and 140 pounds, so I eat meat as a protein source. I need it once or twice a week. I was a vegetarian for seven years for moral reasons as well as not knowing how to cook. It was a good thing. I may become one again, but not right now as I have a high energy output."

\*\*Unsui: A novice Zen monk,  
literally "clouds and water."



☞ "I don't know."

☞ "I would refer you to John Daido Loori's comment in a previous Tricycle. He talks about the Buddhist tradition being a begging tradition - the "open bowl". He proposes the oryoki sense of just enough - taking what you're given with gratitude. You could make a modern cogent argument for vegetarianism saving the planet. It's preferred, ultimately, but it's a personal choice. I admire people who are vegetarian."

☞ "Who's eating?"

☞ "I only like red meat because one cow can feed many people, but if you're eating fish or shellfish it takes many beings to feed one person."

☞ "I believe in nondiscrimination."

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### ✓ CLASSIFIEDS

✓ S.F. DHARMA SISTERS AND MIXED LESBIAN GAY BUDDHIST GROUPS FORMING - I am trying to get together a group of Buddhist women for sharing and socializing - perhaps monthly? Potlucks, meditation, outings and sharing for mutual support. The group would be open to all Buddhist affiliations, as well as non-Buddhist women interested in Buddhism; and to bi, straight and lesbian women equally. There is also interest in getting lesbian and gay Buddhists together for same. First meetings toward the end of June. Interested? Leave message with Jackie at 826-7990.



Bodhidharma, the Western Barbarian

Steve Abbott, well-known writer, literary critic and scenester, spent his last days at Maitri hospice, where Abbot Zenshin performed his funeral service. The following is from his 1989 book of essays, View Askew:

Zen teachers like to tell little stories. A friend tells of a student who once asked Issan Dorsey, Hartford Street's resident Zen monk, about the bodhisattva vow to save all sentient beings.

"What are we saving them for?" the student asked.

"We're saving them for later," Issan replied.

Homage to Avalokitesvara

"Great oceans and waters  
All appear in his body"  
-The Lotus Sutra

A pure white house - a fiction. From my hilltop in rainy blue haze the city's below -

Somewhere else it is wet, somewhere else everything has been forgiven and salmon  
are carping over a blue crest, the spruce has its own salvific arms  
but who will have mercy on us - drowning -  
if not the all-compassionate one,  
a thousand arms, eleven heads, a draped caucasian girdle,  
great oceans and waters  
all appear in his body.

Floods, earthquake. The storm is ours. Stacks of brick  
pleasant in deep red vibration, rusted grilles, cloudy sky  
absorbing everything. Objects eke and hang on - fell and flaking,  
casements famished in water-finish, rubbed wet, warped,  
and the lights went out; the lights keep going out.

This night I am sleeping, there is no clock  
to say what time. When he arrives -  
a thousand arms, a thousand eyes -  
I want to be the least in line for favor.  
I am a god, dreaming all this.

I set the time alone - the drain clock ticking.

How he resolves the tension  
of compassion and distraction,  
love and disgust,  
on the big blue and grey heap of a junked earth

a base of ruins

Hail O Blue-Necked!  
Cast out a line, baby.  
Cast out a line like a pretty girl who is going  
to sit on a stoop all day  
and summon everyone to her

Surely if there were goodness and mercy  
blue would the bliss body be  
and Kuan Yin called into it  
as loving-  
kindness, let's  
bear the fine thing  
between us.

© jacqueline weltman



# HELP US UPDATE OUR MAILING LIST AND SEEK OUT NEW LIFE AND NEW BUDDHAFIELDS (YOU MIGHT BOLDLY GO WHERE FEW PEOPLE HAVE GONE BEFORE)

☐ YES! I AM INTERESTED IN ☐ GETTING ☐ STAYING ON THE MAILING  
LIST OF ☐ HARTFORD STREET ZEN CENTER ☐ MAITRI HOSPICE ☐ BOTH

☐ TAKE ME OFF THE MAILING LIST OF ☐ HARTFORD STREET ZEN CENTER  
☐ MAITRI HOSPICE ☐ BOTH

☐ I AM INTERESTED IN LEARNING ZEN MEDITATION

☐ I AM INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER OF HARTFORD STREET  
ZEN CENTER

☐ I HAVE TIME TO VOLUNTEER AT HSZC

I AM SPECIFICALLY INTERESTED IN:

☐ ZENDO COMMITTEE (CLEANING, RITUAL, ETC)

☐ WRITING, NEWSLETTER, COMPUTER, SECRETARIAL

☐ WORKING WITH THE GARDEN

☐ VOLUNTEERING AT THE HOSPICE

☐ OUTREACH

☐ OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

(E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ )

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## HARTFORD STREET ZEN CENTER

### QUICK LOOK EVENTS LIST:

(Regular Schedule on front)

- Introductory sessions: Monday eves at 5 pm.
- All Day Sitzings: June 5th, July 3rd, Aug., 7th
- May 8th (Sat.) abt. 1 pm - "White Tornado" Soji
- May 16th (Sun.) - Buddha's Birthday at UC Berkeley
- May 18th and successive Tuesdays, 7:30 pm -Classes in "Basic Doctrines of Mahayana Buddhism"
- May 23rd (Sun.) - Jukai (lay ordination) ceremony
- May 29th (Sat.) 9-10 am., Workshop in Meditation hall practices
- June 6th (Sun.) Tokudo (priest ordination) for Houn Mike Gallagher

Avalokitesvara enjoys the fine spring weather

